

DECLASSIFIED

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By *Jay* NARA Date 5/4/01

700V/US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION
APO XVI (NSMA TEAM) US ARMY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~18 April 1980 *Phv*

SUBJECT: Possible Security Threat.

TO: Commanding General
Bp. US Constabulary
AF of S, G-2
APO 46, US Army

This Document has Been
Carded By *...* Carding
Section

Date *11/5/50* *PP.*

1. **SUBJECT:** Otto Karl BIRKE, German national, born May 1919 at HEIDE (H46), present address Adlungenstrasse 52 in that city. Trained interior decorator. Served as observer in the German Air Force and attained the rank of M/Sgt. He was captured by the Soviets in 1944. BIRKE made an unsuccessful attempt to escape in 1948 and was sent to "GEL" #61, a camp which is located about twenty-four (24) kilometers North of VOROTA (N 67°30' E 64°) USSR, AF Chart 94. In April 1950, SUBJECT was released from here after he had signed a statement that he would work for the interests of Communism after his return to his French zone hometown. Upon arrival at HEIDE (H46) SUBJECT asked to see American authorities. After interrogation, BIRKE continued to the French zone discharge center with the scheduled transport.

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Former HEIDE, German national, born March 1924 at VOLKELINGEN (Q65), whose home is now at SAANDEBUCHEN (Q67). He was interned at the same camp and had to sign a similar paper as did BIRKE.

2. Date of Information: March 1950

3. Date of Interrogation: 12 April 1950

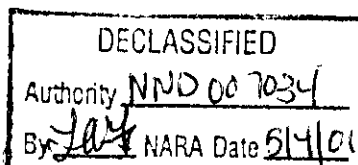
4. Evaluation: F-6

5. "GEL" PW Camp # 61 is located about twenty-four (24) km. North of VOROTA in the East SSR. There are still about seventy-four (74) PW Camps operational in the area near this city. About 2000 men are held in each camp. Inmates of these camps have been declared criminals by Soviet authorities for various alleged misdeeds such as trying to escape, stealing food, remarks against Soviet policies etc. Others were members of German units who have participated in campaigns where crimes against humanity were committed. No one is allowed to write to his relations from any of these camps. The camp is called "International" because of the many different nationalities being held here.

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S-99-8-2

Review on 13 APR 1



SUBJECT: Possible Security Threat

13 Apr 1950

On 12 April 1950, a transport of 127 former inmates of the "OLD" 61 camp arrived at RESEA (N 4485) on the way to their homes in Western Germany. About sixty (60) of them had been forced to sign individual statements to the effect, that they will work in the interest of the NVD upon arrival at home, and not to reveal any information about their treatment while in captivity or about the conditions in USSR. Each man had to choose a cover name for later contacts. The men were told, that in case they refuse to sign such a statement they would not be released, and if they would sign it only for the benefit of being released, they would make a great mistake. Sooner or later they would be forced to keep their promises. None was given a mission, but it is assumed that they will be called upon by communist agents.

6. The following listed names of persons were given by SOURCES. All of them are now interned in this area:

BIRKLE, fnu (SpF) a British officer. Age about fifty-five (55), described as a typical old sportsman who allegedly owns a horse farm in ARYSSINIA. He was arrested in VIENNA () after World War II and interned in a MOSCOW (F 7) jail before being shipped to this area. BIRKLE claimed to have personally spoken to this man for several minutes in Feb or Mar 1950.

Two (2) French officers of the "AUTORISATION DE SEJOUR DE BERLIN 511". One (1) of them is LA RONG MOULIN, while the name of the other officer could not be remembered by SOURCES. BIRKLE has seen both of them at the registration camp of VOREUTA on 28 Feb 1950. He claims to have spoken to the unidentified officer who had a good command of the German language.

Dr FLENO, formerly head of the Protestant Church of ESTONIA, is now interned in "OLD" 45 located in this area.

Both SOURCES have heard of two (2) American physicians and an undetermined number of American officers being held in one of these camps. They are allegedly caring for sick PW's. This is merely hearsay, since neither SOURCE has ever been in contact with them.

The following named German general officers are interned in "OLD" 61:

BOHM, General Oberst -- Former CG of the KURLAND Army
BRUNKE, General -- CG of Armored Troops
BRUNKE, General -- Night-Fighter Expert of the German Air Force
HAJ, General -- Winner of the Military Pentathlon of the 1936 Olympic Games
SCHMIDT/HAMER -- No further details available
DEWE, fnu, Civilian -- Chairman of the "CARITAS" Organization

In addition to these, there are nineteen (19) more general officers interned here and compelled to do manual labor as other low ranking PWs. After work hours they are held in solitary confinement. They are granted no freedom of any kind and even their meals are served in their cell.

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